

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 24, 2008. Applicants have attached a Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the statutory period until June 24, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph. Applicants have corrected terms in the pending claims and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections. Support for such correction can be found in at least U.S. Pat. No. 5,540,813, at least Table III, which is incorporated by reference in the present application (*see*, paragraph 3).

Claims 1, 3-4 and 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,379,791 (*Cernohous*). Claims 2, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cernohous*. Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,188,432 (*Holden*). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,188,432 (*Holden*) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 65,541,285 (*Agarwal*) and U.S. Pat. No. 6,713,141 (*Kaulbach*). Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2003/0124334 (*Naito*).

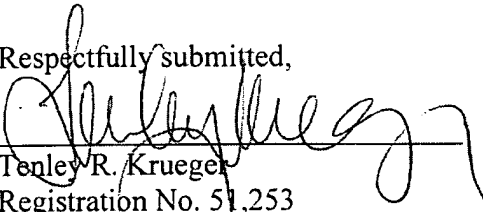
Applicants respectfully submit that the references of record, either alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest melt blending the HIPS with a second polymer exhibiting a melt flow index (MFI) of from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min. as measured by ASTM D1238 to form modified HIPS, wherein the modified HIPS comprises greater than 50 wt.% HIPS, as recited in the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having

addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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